

Vermont farmers devastated by Tropical Storm Irene will receive much-needed disaster assistance through two important federal programs: the USDA's Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the USDA's Emergency Watershed Program (EWP).

ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. EWP helps farmers reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat and reduce damages caused by floods. The program will also help property owners stabilize stream banks and clear river debris that might pose threats to their property. **The deadline to apply for EWP funding related to Tropical Storm Irene damage is Friday, November 18th.** For more information, contact the Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Service. Find a representative in your area

[here](#)

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture has provided resources for farms affected by Tropical Storm Irene. Visit http://www.vermontagriculture.com/news/2011/irene_resources.html for further assistance.

The University of Vermont has also provided information and additional resources for farmers on their Irene Recovery Information page. Visit <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/?Page=emergency.html>

Farmers should keep track of damages and contact their local Farm Services Agency office or the main office at (802) 658-2803.